



# Carradale Land Management Plan Summary

Carradale Land Management Plan (LMP) was approved on 15-5-2023 and runs for 10 years.

## Vision

Carradale (LMP) area comprises a landscape scale unit of 6,703Ha (See Map 1). The plan area comprises of four forest blocks, Deer Hill, Deucheran, Grogport and High Clachaig, and is located in Kintyre north of Campbeltown. While Sitka Spruce is the dominant productive species due to site constraints, opportunities do exist to diversify both species and age structure. The forest has a comprehensive road network which has enabled restructuring to be carried out across most of the mature forest area.

Much of the forest area comprises of predominantly similarly aged Sitka Spruce, with a high larch quantity to add diversity and visual impact. A number of areas have been felled and 2nd rotation crops now successfully establishing, though it may require another rotation to fully implement a more robust and resilient coupe and age structure. Species diversity is a priority as is improving the linkage and connectivity between riparian corridors and open ground across the forest where it contributes to bio-diversity and landscape. The LMP area also contributes to meeting the District's timber production targets.

There are renewables schemes within the plan area, both commercial and private. Deucheran windfarm is well established on Deucheran Hill, with proposals for further developments in High Clachaig, subject to planning permission. There are private water supplies in the LMP area as well as public water catchments.

The forest area is predominantly surrounded by private commercial forests, open hill and agricultural land. Agricultural enterprises are mainly sheep farming. This offers some limited interaction between forestry and agriculture. Stock fencing and sheep trespass will remain important factors within the LMP area in relation to the success of restock establishment. Whilst timber production is a key priority for the West Region, other priorities are important in Carradale; habitat restoration, deer management and habitat management. It provides opportunities for renewable energy sources and as an area for local communities and visitors to enjoy. There are car parks and waymarked trails, as well as the long distance Kintyre Way, which are located in the plan area.

## Objectives

The primary objectives for the plan area are:

- Provide a sustainable productive forest with a diverse range of species, taking into account future threats of climate change and disease.
- Prioritise the removal of Larch to help reduce the spread of Phytophthora ramorum.
- Identify and prioritise deep peat areas for peatland restoration.
- Protect and enhance cultural assets and key wildlife species/protected habitats, whilst removing invasive species. Maintain key recreational infrastructure, including the views from Deer Hill, and improve the path environment by the use of broadleaves and Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) where possible.
- Liaise with the local communities to identify further opportunities for collaborative working to contribute to sustainable rural development.
- Work to support renewable energy developments to help fit them to the landscape and be integrated with other land management objectives.
- Identify and prioritise Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS) for restoration and protection.
- Enhance the landscape by coupe design and restocking proposals, with the focus being on the forest fringe and the east side of the forest.
- Maintain & enhance water quality in relation to both private and public water supplies, and reduce flood risk by limiting felling within flood sensitive catchments.

<b>Total Plan Area</b>	6,703 hectares (ha)
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### Summary of Land Management Plan proposals

<b>Species Group</b>	<b>Current – 2023</b>		<b>Year 10 – 2032</b>	
	Area (Ha)	%	Area (Ha)	%
Sitka spruce	3283	49	6154	47
Mixed conifer	416	6	509	8
Mixed broadleaves	380	6	515	8
Open	2307	34	2522	38

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>2023- 2032 plan</b>
Felling	1052Ha
Thinning- Silvicultural	452Ha
Thinning- Site management	3913Ha
Restocking	1152Ha
Road construction	4981m
Road maintenance	As required
<b>Significant Environment / Conservation Features</b>	
Designated sites (See Map 4)	Numerous Unscheduled Monuments (USM)
Priority habitats/species	Priority habitats & priority species

## Critical Success Factors

- Timber production of 1052Ha.
- 1152Ha restocking.
- Construct 4981m new road.
- Removal of mature larch.
- Continue current levels of deer control. New deer fences where required.
- Diversify the current species structure where site conditions allow to improve future forest resilience in relation to climate change, pests and diseases.
- Control invasive species and monitor plan area for other invasive species.
- Restore 56Ha deep peat areas identified as habitat restoration areas, highlighting other areas identified during operations.
- Seek to improve the water quality status of water bodies by ensuring full compliance with UKFS Forest & Water Guidelines and best industry practice.
- Restore priority PAWS through clearfell, removal of conifers off Low Impact Silvicultural System (LISS) areas and protecting remnants.
- Maintain visitor service (VS) facilities.

## Consultation and further information

Council area: Argyll & Bute Council

Community council: Southend Community Council

Consultation: Public consultation October 2020

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

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